

~~SECRET~~

3 August 1954

AIRFIELDS ON THE CHINA COAST

A study of Chinese Communist capability for air operations in the China coastal waters--particularly for combat patrols and for escort of Communist shipping en route to Chinese ports--reveals that there are some 34 airfields which could be used by aircraft engaged in such missions. These fields are located along the China coast from Shantung Peninsula (38° North) southward to the Indochina border.

With requirements for air strength in other areas of China, Peiping does not now have sufficient numbers of aircraft to make use of all of these fields simultaneously, and only a limited number of the bases are considered capable of handling jet aircraft. All 34, however, are located within range of the coastal waters and could be used by propeller-driven fighters or bombers for coastal operations.

For purposes of this memorandum, the bases are listed from north to south in three categories: (a) airfields known or evaluated as being used or having been used as bases for jet aircraft; (b) airfields known or evaluated as being used or having been used as bases for propeller aircraft; and (c) airfields known or evaluated as capable of being used by propeller aircraft.

The essential difference between a jet airfield and one used by propeller types is that the former has a permanent-surfaced runway of 5-6,000 feet or more. Propeller types can not only operate from such fields, but may also use fields of poorer surface and shorter runways--those with a minimum of approximately 3,000 feet.

This study combines the best available information on Chinese Communist air facilities as of this date. The Chinese Communists have demonstrated their ability, however, to construct a wholly new jet base in 30 to 60 days, and the status of their airfields may thus change drastically in a relatively short time.

The following is a list of the 34 bases, complete with the strength of air units now based on some of them, according to the categories listed above.

~~SECRET~~

I. Airfields Known or Evaluated as Operational
for Jet Aircraft (fighters and bombers)

1. Chiaohsien (36-20N 120-02E) -- Base for 21 IL-28 jet bombers and 20 LA-11 propeller fighters of a naval air unit.
2. Liuting (36-15N 120-22E) -- Base for 55 MIG-15's of an air force division.
3. Shanghai complex -- Base for 50 MIG jet fighters, 20 TU-2 bombers and at least 25 LA-11 fighters of two air force divisions and two naval air regiments.
 - Lunghua (31-10N 121-27E)
 - Tachang (31-20N 121-26E)
 - Hungchiao (31-13N 121-21E)
 - Chiangwan (31-20N 121-30E)
4. Hangchow (30-19N 120-13E) -- Base for 65 MIG-15's and 15 LA-11's.
5. Changchiao (29-54N 121-35E) -- Base for 35 to 55 MIG-15's and 20 LA-11's.
6. Hsiangtang (28-26N 115-58E) -- Base for 40 MIG-15's.
7. Canton complex -- Base for 80 MIG-15's and possibly 25 to 55 TU-2's and 5 to 25 LA-11's.
 - Paiyun (23-10N 113-15E)
 - Tienho (23-09N 113-22E)
 - Nanhai (23-05N 113-04E)

II. Airfields Known or Evaluated as Operational
for Propeller Aircraft

1. *Weihsien (36-40N 119-07E) -- 20 TU-2's.
2. *Tsangkou (36-09N 120-23E) -- Base for a naval flight training school.
3. Hsuchou (34-14N 117-15E) -- 70 IL-10 propeller attack bombers.

* Denotes possibility that field is suitable for use by jets.

~~SECRET~~

4. Mingkukung (32-02N 118-48E) -- Used by civil transports.
5. *Tatopu (28-04N 112-56E) -- 40 to 45 TU-2 bombers.
6. *Liuchou (24-17N 109-23E) -- 30 to 50 LA-9 and LA-11 fighters.
7. Nanning (22-49N 108-21E) -- Used by transports.

III. Airfields Known or Evaluated as Capable
of Use by Propeller Aircraft

1. *Pengpu (32-56N 117-26E) -- Recent base for TU-2 bombers.
2. *Tachiaochiang
(32-00N 118-48E) -- Recent base for TU-2 bombers.
3. *Chiahsing (30-42N 120-41E) -- Recent base for propeller fighters.
4. Taishan (30-17N 122-08E)
5. Yingsien (29-48N 121-28E)
6. Chinghua (29-07N 119-42E)
7. Chienou (27-03N 118-18E) -- See last paragraph below.
8. Changting (25-51N 116-21E) -- See last paragraph below.
9. Nantai (26-00N 119-19E) -- See last paragraph below.
10. Machiang (24-40N 118-17E) -- See last paragraph below.
11. Kaochi (24-32N 118-08E) -- See last paragraph below.
12. Swatow (23-22N 116-40E) -- See last paragraph below.
13. Fort Bayard (21-13N 110-20E)
14. Haikou (20-03N 110-20E)
15. Folo (18-30N 108-49E)

* Denotes possibility that field is suitable for use by jets.

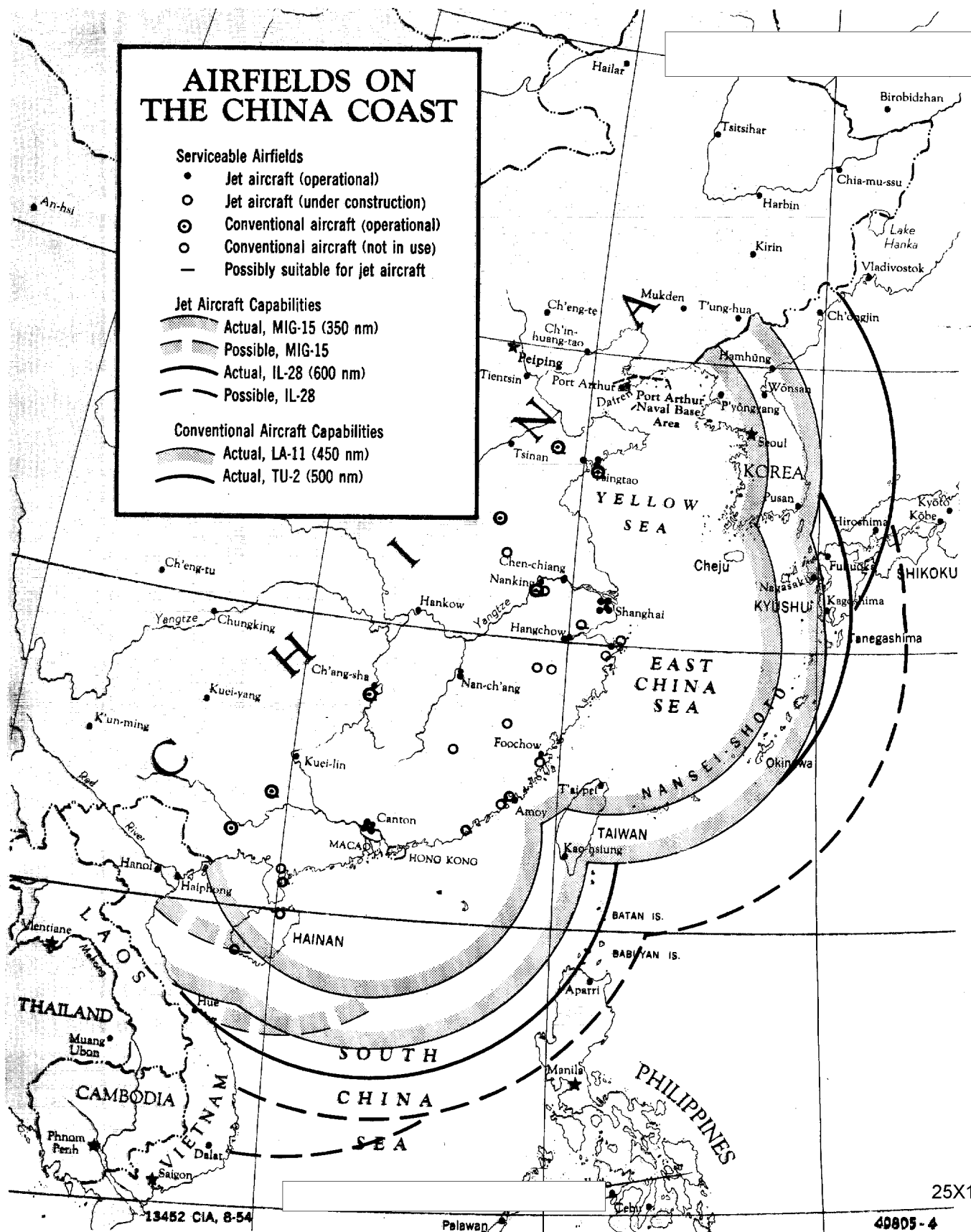
~~SECRET~~

In addition to the 34 fields listed above, two others are now under construction as jet bases. One is located in Chekiang Province at Chuhsien (28-58N 118-53E); the other at Suichi (21-23N 110-13E) opposite Hainan Island. Propeller fighters used recently in the airliner incident near Hainan may have come from Suichi. Both Chuhsien and Suichi are expected to be completed soon.

The six fields at Chienou, Changting, Nantai, Machiang, Kaochi and Swatow in the coastal area opposite Formosa are considered serviceable for propeller aircraft, and could be readied for jets in a short time; however, they are all located in an area which would be difficult to supply and which would be vulnerable to Nationalist air attacks. It is therefore considered unlikely that they would be used to base air units, but they could be used by aircraft based further inland for staging to the coastal waters.

E. H. Knoche
China Br., OCI

25X1



~~SECRET~~

3 August 1954

THE CHINESE COMMUNIST NAVY

The Chinese Communist Navy consists predominantly of ships captured or defected from the Nationalists and are of Japanese, British, and American origin. Its mission has been primarily a defensive one--to patrol the waters along the coast. With the exception of several clashes near the Tachen Islands this spring, it has shown reluctance to engage with elements of the Nationalist navy.

During a time of great expansion of the Chinese Communist air and ground forces as a result of Soviet technical aid and equipment, there has been little apparent attempt to strengthen Peiping's navy. It is conceivable that Moscow has feared that an increased Chinese naval capability would soon be used in an operation against Formosa, with possibly unwelcome consequences.

I. Ships1 light cruiser (inoperational)

Displacement: 7,100 tons
Length: 506 feet
Guns (former): six 6-inch, eight 4-inch,
eight 40mm, and nine 20mm cannon.

The light cruiser CHUNGKING, formerly the British HMS AURORA, is the major ship of the Chinese Communist navy. It was severely damaged by Nationalist bombing in 1949, is now under repair at Dairen, and is expected to be operational by early 1955. Possession of the CHUNGKING is of considerable psychological value to Peiping, but the ship is expected to prove difficult to maintain in operating condition.

9 frigates, 4 large gunboats

Displacement: 1,000-1,600 tons
Length: 185-265 feet
Guns: probably two 3.9-inch and six 37mm each;
one gunboat may have two 5 inch and
three 37mm.
Maximum speed: 14-18 knots

These ships, roughly comparable to British World War II corvettes, but apparently lacking antisubmarine warfare equipment, would be suitable for use as ocean-going escort vessels. They are, however, outclassed in speed and armament by the three destroyers in the Nationalist navy, two of which have recently been transferred from the US Navy and will soon be operating

~~SECRET~~

under the Nationalists. The Chinese Communist frigates and large gunboats are slightly slower, but possess guns with greater range than the six destroyer escorts in the Nationalist navy.

3 smaller gunboats

Displacement:	500-800 tons.
Length:	165-225 feet.
Guns:	probably one or two 3.1-inch and light antiaircraft or machine guns.
Maximum speed:	10-14 knots.

Although these ships are generally inferior to the frigates and large gunboats, they can nevertheless be used as ocean-going escort vessels.

Submarines

One Soviet-type coastal submarine has been stationed at the Chinese Communist naval base of Tsingtao for some time and is probably being used by the Chinese Communist navy as a training vessel. In addition, two Soviet long-range submarines have recently been sighted at Tsingtao flying the Chinese Communist naval ensign, but their actual transfer from the Soviet to the Chinese Communist navy has not been confirmed. Such a transfer would not increase Communist capabilities against American forces in the Far East, but would constitute a major threat to the Chinese Nationalist navy, which is poorly trained in antisubmarine warfare and vulnerable to submerged attack.

Motor Torpedo Boats

The Chinese Communists possess about 50 motor torpedo boats, predominantly of the World War II American "PT-type," but the capability of these craft and their crews to mount torpedo attacks is not known.

Landing and Miscellaneous Vessels

There are about 50 landing vessels of various types in the Chinese Communist navy, including 15-20 LST's. There are in addition some 300 service vessels and minor patrol craft capable of river and coastal duty.

The bulk of the Chinese Communist navy is stationed at ports of the China coast north of Formosa. Although these ships do move occasionally from one northern port to another, the Nationalist blockade and the distances involved have helped make naval ship movements between these northern ports and the main South China naval bases in the Canton area infrequent.

II. Naval Bases

The current locations of the Chinese Communist naval vessels are believed to be as follows:

Dairen

- 1 light cruiser (under repair; probably operational by early 1955).
- 1-2 landing vessels.
- 6 smaller craft.

Chefoo and Taku Bar

- 1-3 small craft each.

Tsingtao

- 1 coastal submarine.
- 2 long-range submarines, possibly transferred from Soviet navy to Chinese Communist navy.
- 1 frigate.
- 1 small gunboat.
- 30 PT boats.
- 8-10 landing vessels.
- various river, coastal, and service vessels.

Shanghai

- 7 frigates (one, possibly two being refitted; both will be operational by next fall).
- 4 large gunboats (one being refitted and not presently operational).
- 1 small gunboat.
- 12 PT boats.
- about 25 landing vessels.
- various river, coastal, and service vessels.

Canton-Whampoa

- 1 frigate.
- 1 small gunboat.
- 6 PT boats.
- 12 landing vessels.
- various river, coastal, and service vessels.

Swatow, Fort Bayard, Hoihow, Yulin

A few small patrol craft and armed junks operate from these bases.